

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F

Government of the District of Columbia

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Commissioners

2F01 Brian Romanowski

2F02 John Guggenmos, *Vice-Chair*

2F03 Michelle Yan

2F04 John Fanning, *Chair*

2F05 Sherene Joseph, *Secretary*

2F06 Ian Simon

2F07 Rehana Mohammed, *Treasurer*

2F08 Alexandra Bailey

Allison McManus, *Executive Director*

A RESOLUTION OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2F Resolution Regarding the Department of Public Works' Public Litter Can Program April 7, 2021

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) were created to “advise the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor, and each executive agency...with respect to all proposed matters of District government policy,” including sanitation;

WHEREAS, the government of the District of Columbia by law is required to give “great weight” to comments from ANCs;

WHEREAS, a function of the Department of Public Works (“DPW”) is “litter can collection and installation,”;

WHEREAS, DPW operates the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Program (SWEEP)¹ which educates residents on proper waste disposal and enforces illegal dumping laws.

WHEREAS, ANC 2F recognizes the tremendous amount of work that the DPW staff complete each day. This exemplary staff completes difficult tasks and is owed a great deal of respect and thanks from the people of the District;

WHEREAS, ANC 2F recognizes that seasonal tasks, such as leaf collection, holiday tree removal, and winter storm preparation and response may impact normal public litter can collection schedules;

WHEREAS, ANC 2F further recognizes the heroic work the DPW staff has completed in the past year, working through the pandemic, assisting with COVID-19 testing sites, and providing security support for marches and protests;

WHEREAS, there was [evidence](#) of public litter can collection issues before these extenuating circumstances;²

¹ District of Columbia, Department of Public Works website, “Solid Waste Education and Enforcement,” <https://dpw.dc.gov/service/solid-waste-education-and-enforcement-sweep>

² Eichler, Michael, “DC 311 Data” via Tableau, 2020: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/michael.eichler#!/vizhome/DC311Datafrom2020v1/2020Filters?publish=yes>

WHEREAS, the same public litter cans sit full or overflowing each week until citizens or commissioners [report the cans via 311](#),³

WHEREAS, the District “has a no tolerance position towards illegal dumping,” and many of the full and overflowing public litter cans show evidence of illegal residential dumping;⁴

WHEREAS, increased reliance on takeout food and drink and use of public spaces during the pandemic are likely increasing demand for the legitimate use of public litter cans;

WHEREAS, the District continues to face a rodent infestation, and full and overflowing public litter cans provide a food source to these rodents;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- 1) ANC 2F would like to know, in detail, how the DPW public litter can collection works. Details should include, but are not limited to:
 - a. A commitment to update the map and roster of all public litter cans in the District currently available on opendata.dc.gov last updated 9/21/2017;
 - b. The collection schedule for each area of the city – days, time of day, frequency -- similar to the Trash Collection Days data available on opendata.dc.gov;
 - c. Clear indication within that data set of who is responsible for each can’s collection – DPW, Clean Team, school staff, office/apartment building staff;
- 2) ANC 2F urges DPW to do more to prevent illegal residential dumping in the public litter cans:
 - a. Increase awareness of DPW’s free bulk pickup services
 - b. Targeted enforcement of repeat offenders and higher visibility of enforcement team members around trouble spots
 - c. Study why residents put residential trash in public bins
 - i. Use the results of that study to identify opportunities to better educate residents and find solutions to the causes of this problem;
- 3) ANC 2F requests DPW work with DDOT to replace derelict public litter cans and to consider design improvements for any new cans:
 - a. Complete audit of all public litter cans and replace and repair cans as needed

³ District of Trash Twitter account: <https://twitter.com/DistrictofTrash>

⁴ District of Columbia, Department of Public Works website, “Illegal Dumping Investigation,” <https://dpw.dc.gov/service/illegal-dumping-investigation>

- i. Many cans are missing liners, others do not have the updated design that prevents waste from falling between the liner and the outside metal frame;
- b. Add a strip of language to outside of cans⁵ that could display a message indicating one or more of the following:
 - i. "No household trash"
 - ii. "Call 311 when full,"
 - iii. "\$75 fine for illegal dumping",
 - iv. "Call 311 to schedule bulk trash pickup";
- c. Consider design improvements for all new cans
 - i. Increase use of "Bigbelly"-style solar compactor cans used at the Wharf⁶
 - ii. Evaluate and share the results of the 2017 pilot program the DowntownDC BID completed, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Technology Officer and DPW, that included 400 litter cans with built-in sensors;
 - iii. Standardize can designs to include a rim to prevent waste from falling between liner and outside metal frame⁷;
 - iv. Standardize can designs to include a top that prevents bulk items from filling the cans⁸;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair or his designee be authorized to represent ANC 2F on this matter specifically to the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, the Executive Office of the Mayor, and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a task team be formed including representatives from the coalition of mid-city ANCs (2B, 2F, 1B, 6E) in conjunction with representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Department of Transportation, the Executive Office of the Mayor, and Members of the Council of the District of Columbia.

This resolution was adopted unanimously, by a vote of 7 in favor with no abstentions, on April, 7, 2021 by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2F at a duly called and properly noticed public meeting with a quorum (at least four Commissioners) present and acting throughout.

⁵ See Appendix A.

⁶ See Appendix A.

⁷ See Appendix A.

⁸ See Appendix A.

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ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Fanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Fanning" clearly distinguishable.

Commissioner John Fanning, Chairman

CC:







Everett Lott, Director, District Department of Transportation

Muriel Bowser, Mayor, District of Columbia

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 District Councilmember

District Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment

APPENDIX A: Images of public litter cans and bins in the District of Columbia.

	Example of public litter can with messaging on side		Solar compactor public trash and recycling bins at the Wharf:
	Trash stuck between liner and outside of can		No rim to prevent trash from going between liner and outside:
	Rim and top that prevents bulk illegal dumping		Rim without top